

THE SATURDAY REVIEW

NUMBER 4253

APRIL 10, 1937

SIXPENCE

PARLIAMENT reassembled this week for what looks like being an important and busy session, especially in view of the fact that it will be shorter than usual owing to an adjournment over Coronation week. The principal and most controversial measure will be the Special Areas Bill which will occupy the floor of the House during the Committee stage, when attempts will be made to strengthen it in various directions. The Physical Training Bill was read a second time on Wednesday with little sustained opposition, and has gone to a standing committee. Here there will be opportunity of moving amendments to make it harmonise more closely with the Factory Bill. Without shorter hours, as we have often maintained, for young people, there can be little leisure or effective methods of physical training.

THIS CORONATION Prayer-book, containing the official form of service, and the skill with which the service has been shortened, without omitting any of the essential and traditional language will be generally welcome. Under modern conditions a service of three or four hours would be more than human nature could endure. The Litany will be sung before the entry of their Majesties, the Bishops will make their act of homage in a body and not one by one, and there will be no sermon. By none of these changes will the occasion be shorn of its historic magnificence. Moreover the event will be on far more popular lines than when the King's 39 predecessors since William the First were crowned. For example, no fewer than 3,700 London schoolchildren will be given an opportunity of seeing the procession. What a day for them all to remember! Such organisation is propaganda in the true sense.

MINISTERS' SALARIES will come up for discussion in Parliament on Monday, and the proposals of the Government have aroused more criticism than was expected. The doubling of the Prime Minister's salary is generally welcomed, and as it is understood that Mr. Baldwin, by a self-denying ordinance, will not participate, there should be little, if any, discussion. The proposed salary of £2,000 a year to the leader of the opposition, on the other hand, has set the Labour Party by the ears. It is certainly difficult to justify on logical grounds. When the independent electors have established a Government to carry out their views, why, they may reasonably ask, should they be called upon to subsidise some one to prevent their views being carried out? The payment to rank-and-file members, £400 a year, was fixed more than a quarter of a century ago, and in view of the smaller value of money since 1911 and the increased responsibilities of private members, many will agree that a salary of £500 a year, free of income tax, would be reasonable. At the same time it is felt that a total

increase in the cost of Parliament of £37,000 a year, though a trifle compared with a total national expenditure running into hundreds of millions, is unjustifiable so long as the law officers are paid in fees and salaries such large and arbitrary sums.

BELOWING is a photograph of the King of Belgium, who is anxious to cease to be the cockpit of Europe, as she has been through several centuries. No country other than ours will wish more heartily that her efforts will be successful. At the moment no official statement has been issued, but it is to be hoped that the visit of the King of the Belgians will be fruitful. Peace in Europe very largely depends on Germany's being disabused of the idea that any attempt is being made to form an aggressive ring round her. In the meantime Belgium's domestic politics are in an interesting stage. To-morrow a bye-election takes place in Brussels between the Prime Minister, Monsieur van Zeeland and the leader of the Rexist party. The Prime Minister's success, which is generally expected, would apparently lead to stability, though from English eyes the position of parties is obscure.

JERRY BUILDERS are an unpopular tribe, though all builders are far from being jerry. To-day a movement for "saving for the nation" tracts of land, derelict castles, old and uninhabitable cottages is in full swing, and at the present rate, unless we all take much longer holidays, there will be hardly enough walkers and hikers to enjoy the benefits provided for them. We are strong supporters of the preservation of rural England, and other movements in the same direction, but what is saved must be really worth saving. There is a danger that the public purchase of a tract of land may add enormously to the value of surrounding land which remains in private hands. The National Trust is doing a great work, and may be relied upon to avoid the pitfalls.

OXFORD'S APPEAL for a million pounds, roughly, to bring it up to date in view of the greatly increased numbers of undergraduates since the war, notably on the scientific side, has made a good start. The first list shows that about a third of the sum required has been received or promised; but it should be noted that two thirds of this amount comes from two donors, Lord Nuffield and the Rhodes Trustees. Oxford men as a body are not wealthy, and if all subscribe according to their means, the total asked for will probably not be reached. But the tendency of rich business men to subscribe to national causes has been a pleasant feature of late, and it may be hoped that many public-spirited citizens will share the saying of a great philanthropist that he would be ashamed to think that he was not going to die poor. When the late Lord Haldane was reorganising the

University of London, he was asked what he would like to do about Oxford. He replied (to the writer of this note), "leave it alone; keep it in a glass case." Few would be found to agree with him to-day. Oxford University is not a museum piece.

IN RECENT years the percentage of infantile mortality has decreased enormously, and it is now probably lower than at any previous period in our history. At the same time the number of maternal deaths in or after childbirth has not shown the reduction which the progress of medical science might lead us to expect. Puerperal fever has continued to prove recalcitrant to all efforts, although modern methods of treatment have had their effect. It is good, therefore, to learn that at the annual meeting, held this week at 10, Downing-street at the invitation of Mrs. Baldwin, of an organisation connected with Queen Charlotte's Hospital—that great institution—that a new method of prevention, discovered in Germany, has been tried out with notable success. Deaths from one of the most distressing of diseases in family life have been reduced at Queen Charlotte's from 22 to 4 per cent. of cases. Not for the first time, it seems, has Germany made a great contribution to the health of the world.

SWINBURNE, who was born just a hundred years ago and died in 1909, has suffered more than the usual period of eclipse that follows an author's death, especially in a time of changing literary standards. He is coming into his own again. Educated at Eton and Oxford, was there ever a less typical product of such traditions? His great day was towards the end of Victoria's reign; was there ever a less typical Victorian? He was both before and in advance of his time. By inheritance he was a Jacobite and a rebel: witness his *Adieux à Marie Stuart*. In an age when children were repressed and taught to be seen, occasionally, and not heard, he believed passionately in the rights of childhood, as we do to-day.

Earth's creeds may be seventy times seven
And blood have defiled each creed;
If of such be the kingdom of heaven,
It must be heaven indeed.

And at a time when to ignore organised religion was to be outside the pale, he was a pagan of the pagan, his God "our father the Sun." So think some of his spiritual descendants to-day. He was never happier than in the sea and he would have rejoiced in the present cult of the body. He was often carried away by the rhythm and majesty of the English language, but at his best he could use it as few before or after him. Swinburne, it may safely be predicted, will live as long as that language. Surely a well-chosen volume of what is immortal in his poetry would have a wide appeal to-day.

INSURANCE COMPANIES nowadays can save us from most of the anxieties inseparable from life. You can insure against twins, and presumably the premium against quins would be extremely low. Surely the oddest insurance is that recently taken out by a New Zealand golfer against doing a hole in one, and thereby being subjected

to the traditional claim for drinks all round. It may be suggested that the insurer was an exceptionally cautious Scot. But there are some things still uninsurable. A correspondent tells us that some years ago he tried to insure a motor-boat used on the West Coast of Ireland. There were no takers at Lloyds, on the ground that the Irish were notoriously reckless and the Atlantic was notoriously rough. Lloyds were justified, as the boat went to the bottom, happily without loss of life, within a year or two.

THE FILM *Pagliacci* has not lasted very long at the Carlton, and there is little reason to suppose that its successor, *Swing High, Swing Low*, will do much better. The new picture is not a film version of *Veronique*, but has plenty of musical sounds in it, provided for the most part by a trumpet. Carole Lombard, who plays the heroine, is sensible enough to say near the beginning that she loathes trumpets; unfortunately she doesn't stick to her opinion, and the result of the change is deplorable. A light and amusing trifle becomes so charged with sentimentality that even this actress, whose methods are not so stereotyped as the majority, ceases to exhibit any individuality; the unfortunate Fred MacMurray has little opportunity to display anything that borders on reality, except a week's growth of beard. Only when he has spent all his money on the wrong girl, and probably the wrong brand of champagne, does the picture draw to its trumpeting close—and one can only be thankful that he isn't made to play *I Hear You Calling Me*.

IF A PLAY can be judged by the delight with which it is received, then "The Bat" at the Embassy gets full marks. Toes curled up inside shoes, suppressed "oos" and "ahs" and a certain tickling down the spine registered emotions of the many tense situations in which the characters found themselves. The denouement is clever and the identity of The Bat was well concealed. Miss Eva Moore made a delightfully calm and shrewd Miss Van Gorden and was supported by a good cast who did full justice to this mystery play by Mary Roberts Rinehart and Avery Hopwood.

IN THE CITY the old account closed this week with a hopeful tone, and Government securities remained firm with an upward tendency. As is usual before the Budget little business is being done and most investors are taking the sensible line of waiting and seeing. The belief is growing that comparatively little change will take place in taxation, direct or indirect, though it is probably too much to hope that income-tax will not be rounded off to the crown in the pound, with perhaps some widening of the net to catch payers of super-tax. Another possibility is some adjustment of the beer duty, without increasing the cost of beer: such increase, as we know from experience, is apt to defeat its own object. Many of our readers will be glad to note that the Army and Navy Stores are increasing their dividend, and thus giving shareholders the benefit of a wise and conservative policy.

Leading Articles

POPULATION

THE decline in population promised by our statisticians has attracted some attention and there seems a general tendency to bewail the prospect and to call for remedial measures. Propaganda, a Royal Commission, legal provisions for the encouragement of larger families are suggested and they appear to be likely to be as effective as, to borrow a simile from Kipling's Mulvaney, tapping with a walking stick on the deck of a liner to prevent the engines going round. The question of population is full of paradoxes. Germany claims that there is no room in her own territories for her overflowing people and, therefore, in common justice she should be presented with the possessions of other people. Yet no nation has been so occupied in taking measures to raise its birthrate, happily without any very noticeable results. Italy too, before the conquest of Abyssinia, clamoured that there was no space for her citizens in the Peninsula, and at the same time called on all true Italians to follow the example of the rabbit. It will be interesting to see how far the new Empire will relieve congestion at home.

One is tempted to regard this country as overpopulated. It is not a satisfactory state of things when a country cannot provide its own food and depends on supplies brought from overseas. If wealth depends on this condition, as the bankers say, wealth is being bought at too high a price. A smaller population with a higher percentage of families living on the land and comparative poverty would make a happier and more healthy nation. The economic expert adores paradoxes. Many of them declare that a decrease in population would mean an increase in unemployment. This may be so, but it is odd that the vast rise in unemployment during the last twenty years has gone hand in hand with an increasing population. Statistics, however, are curious things or, as the average man puts it, you can prove anything by figures. G. K. Chesterton once told an enlightening tale of how the statisticians, aided by the most delicate machines, based a series of prophecies on the observed relative growth of the mushroom and the acorn, and startled the world with pictures of a world in which all living things, the forest trees included, would be overshadowed by the vast umbrellas of gigantic fungi.

We may then take pretty calmly the warnings that within a certain space of time our population will have fallen to a figure such as this island is capable of feeding and leave our descendants to deal with the possibility that in a century it may have dwindled to a mere four and a half million. Most good things in this world are accomplished by concentration on the present with no more than reasonable attention to the future. People who are always talking about what they are going to do for future generations cause a terrible mess in the present. There is no logical reason why some future generation should be more important than

that which is now living. It is the other way about. The very existence of that future generation is problematical and we have no idea as to the conditions into which it may be born. Moreover, if each generation is to ignore its own requirements for the sake of a later one, we are faced with an infinite regress in which there will never be a present. Busying oneself over measures about the future leads to such foolish slogans as "a war to end war" and has brought us within an ace of war, because instead of facing the needs of the present we were pleased to indulge in pacifism on the plea that it would be so nice for those who came after. "*Carpe diem*" is a motto full of good sense.

Plato in "The Republic" tried to legislate so that his city state should never be under- or overpopulated, but he admitted that there were laws of growth and decay against which even the philosopher could not prevail. Those laws are still in operation and they may be summed up as the spirit of the nation. When the national spirit decays, neither tyrant nor politician nor scientist can mend it. Yet a fall in population is not necessarily a proof of decadence. Quality, as Plato knew, is far more important than quantity, and quality does not appear in the census returns.

In the past the happiest states were those which were based upon a slave system. There had to be thousands of slaves in order that hundreds of free citizens might prosper and live a life worth living. An optimist might say that in this world the machine has come to replace the slave. There is no longer any need of millions toiling and moiling. All that is needed can be produced by a mere handful of men and, therefore, there may well be a reduction in population. Unhappily, something that was foreshadowed by Samuel Butler in "Erewhon" has taken place. Man, instead of enslaving the machine and subjecting it to his will, has been enslaved by it and the result is the breakdown of civilisation which we are now witnessing. Through greed we have lost control of our machines and half their activities are either useless or worse. Advertising with the lie in its soul talks loudly of truth and assumes that there is some virtue in encouraging manufacturers to produce what is futile or deleterious and persuading customers to buy what they really do not want. With it all goes unemployment and it can at least be said for a considerable drop in the population that even if the percentage of unemployed rose there would be fewer actual people suffering its misery—and that after all is what counts.

It is argued that numbers are needed for war. A nation cannot survive without abundance of cannon fodder. Here again the machine should have something to say if military science could grasp all its possibilities. In the last war masses of men were thrown against one another with little result except gigantic slaughter. There are many who believe that in the next war relatively small highly trained forces armed with scientific weapons will show themselves superior to any weight of numbers.

Population is one of many problems which turn on the psychology of the people. Everywhere

to-day there is a yearning for some belief to which a man can hold as to a solid rock. Materialism is in its death throes in philosophy and science and something new must take its place. It cannot be the religion now served up by churches and sects. A new religion is needed to give fresh life to the eternal varieties of all the religions of the world. The West living outwardly and concerned with nothing but action must learn from the East, the birthplace of all great religions, and discover that all its worries and busy-ness are nothing but a façade to an inner life. Contemplation alone brings peace and the inward security which nothing can shake. A change of heart is the only solution to all our problems.

WAR IN SPAIN

THETROUBLE with the civil war in Spain (apart from the facts that it is not in any sense civil and that it is not really war) is that it has gone on too long. As a spectacle of battle, murder and sudden death, calculated to add to the circulation of popular newspapers, it must be losing its effect. People have existed who would follow a circus round and round the world, not daring to miss one performance lest this should be the one in which the charming lady fell to broken bones and death from the highest trapeze. But they have been few in number. The ordinarily morbid mind is satisfied with two or three attempts to get a real kick out of someone else's death.

Besides, the whole affair has become too complicated for the average reader. Little sectional maps which show advances and retirements, ground won and lost in little battle areas dotted sporadically about Spain; contradictory claims of victory and defeat in the same so-called battle; tales of casualties and executions which would as surely extirpate the Spanish race as a distinguished statistician reduced to nothingness the German army in the early stages of the real war; all these things have by degrees led the outside world to credit hardly any news that comes out of Spain and to become almost bored with its savage fracas.

Interest, it is true, is still kept alive by the satisfaction with which one set of people hears of discreditable reverses suffered by Italian troops and another of defeats inflicted on Russian volunteers. But these are, strictly speaking, extraneous to the real issue. That issue, which was in the beginning an organised revolt by the military party against what amounted to a Bolshevik autocracy, has now—it can hardly be doubted—been very greatly obscured. It is possible that over large parts of Spain the civil war has no significance at all. But in others its continuance must have long ago become unendurable. It must be supposed, moreover, that enormous numbers of Spaniards, who are not entirely barbaric in their outlook and their way of life, have for a long time been utterly ashamed of the spectacle which their country has presented to a world which still dares to call itself civilised.

Indeed, if Non-Intervention Committees had any power of themselves to help themselves and if every alien could be dragged out of Spain the

miserable slaughter would cease very soon and such energies as were left to Spaniards be used in cleaning up the shambles. That can hardly be hoped for and it is uncomfortably true that so long as Russians and French and Germans and Italians, to say nothing of a few Englishmen, are helping to wage a kind of war on behalf of opposing theories of Spanish government, Europe cannot take its eyes off Spain, its ships from Spanish waters, or its watchful attention from the hidden springs of action.

Sympathies and antipathies are still very much involved. But not so keenly as once they were. General Franco, as a conquering hero and liberator, loses a little of his glamour when he and his mercenaries are put to confusion and continually fail to enter Madrid. The Government forces can never make themselves popular with the peoples of a free democracy. And the boredom which is becoming the chief ingredient of the attitude of the outside world is part of a longing to be done with this extra complication and superfluous anxiety in a distracted and ill-adjusted world. The best hope is, perhaps, that the boredom and lassitude should spread to Spain itself and to its meddlesome protectors.

PRISON REFORM

THemain interest of "Prison from Within," by Richmond Harvey (George Allen & Unwin, 7s. 6d.), lies in the detailed account of the brighter side of prison life. The writer is not a grumbler; he accepts his punishment in a philosophical manner, determined to do his best so as to regain his freedom at the earliest possible moment. He was lucky in being placed in the library straight away—a comparatively congenial job for an educated man, and this fact contributed largely to his mental health and saved him from the nervous break that assails so many men in prison. He soon attained a position of trust and his book is peppered with amusing anecdotes about the men under his charge.

Like all ex-prisoners who commit their experiences to paper, he criticises the prison system adversely. Everyone knows that reform is still in its infancy, but a great deal has been done and many new experiments are being tried. These things take time, and reformers are often handicapped by their ideas not being given a fair trial—a hard, sour-tempered officer can ruin any system and make prison a veritable hell for the men under him. That type of man, however, is not confined to prisons, but is to be found wherever authority over the defenceless can be wielded. Parenthood, schoolmastering and the Services all provide opportunities for the bully, and to men in prison this sort of thing is not always a novelty.

Mr. Harvey gives an interesting account of a discussion he had with the Deputy-Governor on the subject of the unnecessary and irritating noise made by the officers in giving orders. The Deputy contended that the modern youth is accustomed to noise and can only be kept in control by these methods. To an educated man who has lived an ordered, self-disciplined life and who has perhaps been in a position of authority himself this irksome

nagging is a very great nerve strain and one of the worst parts of his punishment.

It may of course be argued that as it is worse for an educated man to commit a crime he deserves a greater penalty. This may be true, but a wise judge, while fairly administering the law, should always take into account the suffering entailed by the disgrace of trial and conviction to a man of good position. Invidious distinction of class cannot be made in prison, but the authorities should realise that the hardships endured by a man accustomed to physical comfort is far greater than to those born in less fortunate circumstances, and that the enforced association with the ill-bred is in itself a very real trial to a man of culture. In time no doubt something will be done to mitigate this evil.

Mr. Harvey condemns the whole system at Wormwood Scrubs as being "unintelligent, irritating and humiliating." He admits that cruelty no longer exists, and notes that to the "down and outs," assured of food and warmth, it was almost a paradise. He would like each prisoner to be treated psychologically—the reason for each man's defection to be thoroughly investigated and the cure to be such as would make for the rebuilding of character, so that a man would be able to master his difficulties and fight his temptations. This is no doubt the council of perfection, but before attempting such a difficult and expensive method, the obvious causes of crime, such as want and slum clearance, should be adequately tackled, and then the small residue of criminals could be more easily dealt with.

In supporting his charge of unintelligence in prison methods, Mr. Harvey quotes the case of a fraudulent solicitor who was set to sewing mail-bags during the whole of his 18 months' sentence. He asks how this treatment could reform such a man. The real answer is that an educated man who commits such a dastardly and caddish crime is not so much in need of reform as of severe punishment. The embezzlement of clients' money is nearly as bad as the crime of blackmail. The former trades on the implicit trust of the innocent and the latter on the fears of the guilty.

The despair of the embezzler's victims when they realise that they are destitute, many of them too old to earn and looking forward to a comfortable old age for which they had saved all their lives, is so great that it has often led to suicide. Can it be reasonably maintained that the sewing of mail-bags is too much punishment for a man who has caused so much real and terrible suffering?

The men who need reforming are those who have never had a fair start in life, not those men of good education who deliberately swindle others, knowing full well the terrible consequences of their action.

Mr. Harvey, in spite of his wholesale condemnation, has to admit that a very small percentage of prisoners at Wormwood Scrubs revert to crime. This, however, he coolly remarks, is no tribute to the system but only to the men themselves. That surely is a very ill-considered statement. That the prison population is dropping yearly is almost

entirely due to the substitution of educational methods as against the brutal treatment of former times.

Every effort is now being made to save men from falling into despair; a man made desperate in prison leaves it with hatred and revenge in his heart and becomes a real danger to society. To this end concerts, lectures, books and newspapers are provided, and men gain positions of trust through good behaviour. In this way it is hoped to lift a man up again and set him on his feet. That the punishment does not end with the prison sentence is no fault of the system but of society, which can be merciless to the offender. Apart from the first few weeks, which are admittedly intentionally strict, the atmosphere in prison appears to be cheerful and, certainly in Holloway, where the women work in light airy rooms full of flowers, an unhappy face is the exception, and under the present Governor every prisoner can be sure of a square deal. The "preventive detention" prisoners live much as they would in any well-run household, doing congenial work in comfortable surroundings. They live in a separate house and except for the lock on the front door and bars on the windows they are free to arrange their own lives within easy rules, cooking their own food and being provided with books and wireless.

It is all to the good that the general public are at last beginning to take an interest in prisoners' welfare. No efforts must be spared to save the young criminal and the first offender from a life of crime; experiments must be given a fair trial, and reformers must not be discouraged by a few failures.

CHAOS IN INDIA

If the Indian situation had not its very serious side, the latest developments would suggest an amusing farce, with the amazing Mr. Gandhi in the rôle of hero who upsets everyone's expectations and makes devastating fun out of the futile attempts of the other characters on the stage to right themselves. The whole Congress Party, including its official leader, but not Mr. Gandhi, seem to be in a condition of hopeless perplexity over the recent turn of events; most of them are busy, rather ludicrously, "eating their words"; the Indian Press has been daily somersaulting in its own opinions; and the official world of Delhi and the provincial capitals has adopted the attitude of Brer Fox and is lyin' low and saying "nuffin." And there is Mr. Gandhi once more in the full glare of the limelight, revolving his spinning-wheel, the while he thinks out some more little formulas and keeps everyone guessing what he will be doing and saying next. Will he meet the Viceroy? Of course he will, if Lord Linlithgow gives him the chance of an interview. But will he have any helpful suggestion to make if and when he sees the Viceroy? That is the real crux of the matter. Lord Halifax might give one answer to that question and Lord Linlithgow possibly may be inclined to imagine another. But whatever happens, Mr. Gandhi is obviously determined that no one, Indian or Briton, shall steal the limelight from him.

Books of The Day

MONUMENTAL HISTORY

M^R. H. G. WELLS was not the first man to be inspired with the desire to treat of history from the universal standpoint and Dr. Will Durant, who has just brought out the first prodigious volume of a work of this character ("The Story of Civilisation: Our Oriental Heritage," Simon and Schuster, New York, and Allen and Unwin, London, with 85 illustrations, 20s.), will probably not be the last. A project of this sort must always have its fascination for the historical student and scholar, for it is only by viewing history in all its length and breadth, synthetically as well as analytically, that one can fully comprehend the working of cause and effect in the essential unity of human existence. The trouble is that the task calls for a degree of scholarship, a power of compression and a nicety of judgment that one can hardly expect to be combined in a single mind, however brilliant. Dr. Durant, to do him justice, suffers from no delusions on this point.

"I wish," he says in his Preface, "to tell as much as I can, in as little space as I can, of the contributions that genius and labour have made to the cultural heritage of mankind—to chronicle and contemplate, in their causes, character and effects, the advances of invention, the varieties of

economic organisation, the experiments in government, the aspirations of religion, the mutations of morals and manners, the masterpieces of literature, the development of science, the wisdom of philosophy and the achievements of art. I do not need to be told how absurd this enterprise is, nor how immodest is its very conception; for many years of effort have brought it to but a fifth of its completion and have made it clear that no one mind, and no single lifetime, can adequately compass this task. Nevertheless I have dreamed that despite the many errors inevitable in this undertaking, it may be of some use to those upon whom the passion for philosophy has laid the compulsion to try to see things whole, to pursue perspective, unity and understanding through history in time as well as to seek them through science in space."

Dr. Durant has been at work at this first volume of his since 1927. In it he deals with the beginnings of civilisation, the tools and achievements, so far as archaeology has discovered them, of prehistoric man; the records of Sumeria, ancient Egypt and Babylonia; the history of civilisation in India from the *Vedas* to Gandhi, in China from Confucius to Chiang Kai-shek and in Japan from the earliest times to the present day. His next volume, which he hopes to have completed in three years, will be devoted to "our Classical Heritage," the three succeeding ones covering respectively the Middle Ages, the period from the Reformation down to the French Revolution and the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. The present volume, with bibliography and index, runs to well over a thousand pages and has only been kept down to that amount of space by frequent resort to smaller type for quotations and technical matter. To settle down to read a volume of this portentous size requires, on the part of the average reader, more than a little courage and determination. But it is only fair to Dr. Durant to add that once the reading has started it is an easy matter to go on with it, so rich is the author's store of knowledge, so agreeably piquant is his style of displaying it, so well-balanced on the whole is his critical faculty. That is not to say that he is not guilty at times both of exaggerating tendencies and movements and of showing a lack of appreciation of solid as apart from purely philosophic achievement. For example, in assessing the benefits to India from British rule—internal and external peace, the building of railways, factories and schools, the teaching of science, technology and the democratic ideals of the West and the revealing of the cultural wealth of India's past—he goes on to repeat the oft-explored myths, so popular with a certain class of ultra-patriotic Indian writers:—"The price of these benefactions was a financial despotism by which a race of transient rulers drained India's wealth year by year as they returned to the re-invigorating north; an economic despotism that ruined India's industries and threw her millions of artisans back upon an inadequate soil; and a political despotism that, coming so soon after the narrow tyranny of Aurangzeb, broke for a century the spirit of the Indian people." Dr. Durant should not have allowed his admiration for Mr. Gandhi and India's philosophic past to lead him into perpetrating so much nonsense in a single sentence.

Sixth Impression.

Price 7/6 net.

Schools of Hellas

AN ESSAY ON
ANCIENT GREEK EDUCATION

By
K. J. FREEMAN,

Scholar of Winchester and of Trinity College, Cambridge.

*With fourteen reproductions of
Greek vases on terra-cotta paper*

We have nothing but praise.—*The Times*
The book is a masterpiece.—*Morning Post*
This fine discriminating essay.—*Daily Telegraph*
Full of freshness and the joy of life.—*The Guardian*
The best account in English.—*Saturday Review*

MACMILLAN

Imaginative biography in the form of a novel or something akin to it is apparently becoming increasingly popular. It has, of course, the advantage of presenting a portrait against a living background and it certainly helps to give colour and thrill to the narrative. But while imaginary conversational scenes, the reproduction of the hero's or heroine's thoughts, or the supposed telling of the tale by an eye-witness may serve to enhance the interest of the historical drama in much the same way as the speeches put into the mouths of their heroes by the ancient historians, the drawback for the reader is that he does not always know how much of the story he ought to believe and is consequently inclined perhaps to be unduly sceptical regarding the truth of what is offered for his intellectual entertainment. In some cases such an attitude would be less than just to the reconstructive skill of an author who has made a particularly close study of a period and has merely chosen this fictitious form of narrative in order to invest the tale to be told with life. For example, it would be difficult to find a more authentic picture of sixteenth century Renaissance Italy than that depicted for us with such consummate art and alluring charm by Mrs. Hicks Beach in her story of the young and short-lived Cardinal Ippolito ("A Cardinal of the Medici," Cambridge University Press, 15s.). The story is supposed to be told by the unknown mother of the Cardinal and the literary grace of its telling is not the least part of its attractions.

Mrs. Hicks Beach's book begins at the year 1512 and that is three years from the ending of another Italian imaginative biography, that of "Lucretia Borgia," by Alfred Schirokauer (translated from the German by Gerald Griffin, with 21 illustrations, Jarrolds, 15s.). The Borgia family—Pope Alexander VI and his progeny, Lucretia and Cæsar—have been handed down to posterity with unenviable reputations as monsters of iniquity, guilty of every sin and crime from incest to murder and peculiarly gifted in the gentil arts of betraying their friends and poisoning their enemies. The father has usually been represented as being a shade less vicious than his children, while Cæsar Borgia has generally been awarded the palm as the master criminal of the three. Herr Schirokauer makes no attempt to whitewash Cæsar Borgia. Indeed, he attributes to him sole responsibility for some of the crimes in which Lucretia has been accused of playing a sinister hand. But he does credit him with the ambition of founding a united Italy under his own sway—a dream that went agley through Cæsar's inability to curb his own licentious and criminal character. Lucretia Herr Schirokauer represents as the innocent and unfortunate victim of her father's and brother's inordinate ambitions, a charming, beautiful, cultured, lovable woman, whose Mona Lisa smile denoted her resignation over a fate that she could not control. The biography reads like a novel and the historical background is filled in with a light and masterly touch.

* * *

The sudden destruction of the Crystal Palace by fire was an event that naturally served to recall some at least of the history of this remarkable

building that had so long acted both as a popular centre of entertainment and as a striking landmark on the southern outskirts of London. But that history was assuredly worthy of something better than the accounts which appeared at the time in all our daily newspapers, and one must be grateful to Mr. Christopher Hobhouse for having made good the omission in a very charming and attractive book, wherein the full story of the Great Exhibition of 1851 is set out and illustrated from contemporary drawings and the tale is carried on to the final catastrophe on November 30th last ("1851 And The Crystal Palace," Murray, 7s. 6d.). The Great Exhibition hardly justified all the fond hopes of its principal promoters, among whom, of course, was the Prince Consort: it did not, as Mr. Hobhouse remarks, have any real importance, nor did it bring international peace. But it was a magnificent success, a really "glorious show." It netted a profit of £186,000, whereas its successor in 1862 was a dismal financial failure. The people thronged to it, and it brought London such a season of prosperity as it had never before known. "Cab-drivers reaped a rich harvest from bewildered foreigners. Polyglot policemen were introduced to protect them and became a tremendous joke with the Cockneys." And the many dangers that had been apprehended by the erection of the Exhibition in Hyde Park proved illusory. "By day, large numbers of top-hatted police-constables patrolled the courts and peered over the galleries: but their only difficulty was to get the ladies out at six o'clock. Twelve pick-pockets were found in the act of stealing a total of



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CONVALESCENCE AT LAST!

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Amongst the great English public there are signs of convalescence. One of its leaders to whom most attention is paid, Mr. Garvin, the editor of the *Observer*, has called Geneva "a paradise of unadulterated madness," and wrote: "A war in the Mediterranean would precipitate a general war and a world conflagration. The atmosphere of Geneva seems to have become the most fatal of all influences contrary to peace and engendering war."

SHEED AND WARD

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£4 5s. 3d. Eleven persons were caught removing minor exhibits, generally of the most useless description. No cases of sedition or conspiracy came to light." In short, such crime as the Exhibition produced was of the most trivial character.

* * *

The Mediterranean is one of the most important of our Empire's ocean highways and recent international events have helped to emphasise the risks attendant on this particular line of imperial communications. All that affects the balance of power in almost any portion of this inland sea must ultimately have its concern for those whose duty it is to secure the Empire's defence and to see that its vital means of communication are in no danger of being interrupted or cut. With many different States and races bordering on and interested in this sea the factors to be reckoned with are by no means of a simple character, and accordingly one may welcome a book such as that of Sir Charles Petrie ("Lords of the Inland Sea: A Study of the Mediterranean Powers," Lovat Dickson, 10s. 6d.) which surveys the whole Mediterranean scene and offers us conclusions drawn from the author's own experience of and contact with the various countries and their rulers. Sir Charles has his own opinions and he states them with perfect freedom in every case. His point of view may not be that of all his readers but at least they can have no doubt as to the sincerity of his convictions. He makes no secret of his Fascist sympathies. He has a profound admiration for Franco and believes that his triumph will assure to Spain unity, peace and strength and be better for Britain and Europe than the victory of his opponents. As for Mussolini, he is "the greatest figure of the present age." Salazar, the Portuguese Dictator, King George of Greece and Kemal Attaturk are other personalities about whom Sir Charles has much to tell us in the way of commendation. For Soviet Russia, on the other hand, he has nothing but condemnation: "In South-eastern Europe eternal vigilance is the price of security against revolution inspired by Moscow"; it is Russia who "has poisoned the whole international atmosphere." Dealing with the question of Imperial Defence Sir Charles puts forward the suggestion that we should have recourse to the French system of compulsory military service at home and the raising of a special white colonial army, recruited from the Dominions as well as from the British Isles, for the garrisons overseas. For the rest the basis of British policy should be "a friendly Italy and a friendly Greece and an Italy and a Greece friendly to one another. Once this has been attained, there will little to fear from (Russian) Communist agitation."

* * *

At a time when Imperial statesmen are about to undertake serious discussion of the problem of filling the Empire's "empty spaces," it is more than a little depressing to be told that the real problem is not to start once again the flow of immigration but to put a stop to tendencies which, if left unchecked, will cause our British stock practically to disappear within the next hundred years. "Unless something drastic happens to alter our social

habits," writes Dr. G. F. McCleary in "The Menace of British Depopulation" (Allen and Unwin, 4s. 6d.), "the people of this country will in a few years begin to diminish in number and then enter upon a period of rapid decline. A little later the British stock in the Dominions will go down the same road. If our fertility and mortality rates remain as at present, or change as experience suggests that they are likely to change, the countrymen of Shakespeare, who have done so much for the progress of the human spirit—so much to uphold the ideals of kindness, tolerance and fair play—will perish from the earth." The argument Dr. McCleary advances in support of this distressful thesis is based on the methods for measuring population growth and decline first introduced by Dr. R. R. Kuczynski. It is certainly an impressive case that is presented in this little book of under 150 pages and one worthy of earnest attention. One could wish, however, that having so luridly pointed out the "menace" confronting us, Dr. McCleary had been more helpful than he is in suggesting ways and means of averting it. All he has to say on this point is that we should "bring about a more equal and copious distribution of wealth" and cultivate "a collective soul."

OTHER NEW BOOKS

"The Nile in Egypt," by Emil Ludwig, translated by Mary H. Lindsay (Allen & Unwin, 16s.); "Sand and Sun," by Michael Terry (Michael Joseph, 12s. 6d.); "Londonderry House and Its Pictures," by H. Montgomery Hyde (Cresset Press, 15s.).

"The Theory of Forward Exchange," by Paul Einzig (Macmillan, 21s.); "Indian Peepshow," by Henry Newman (Bell, 7s. 6d.); "Curse While You're Thinking," by Gertrude Kingston, and "William Bligh of the Bounty," by H. S. Montgomerie (Williams and Norgate, each 15s.); "The Road to Oxiana," by Robert Byron (Macmillan, 10s. 6d.); "Skyways to a Jungle Laboratory," by Grace Crile (Heinemann, 12s. 6d.).

PUBLISHERS' PLANS

On April 20 Messrs. Allen & Unwin will be publishing "Four Generations of Our Royal Family," by Lord Holden; "Queens and Princesses," by M. Fortesque; and "John Heywood," by R. de la Bere.

The Oxford University Press will have ready this month an English translation by Mr. L. G. Wickham Legg of a work by a well-known German authority on the history of coronation in general and the English coronation in particular. This book will be entitled "A History of the English Coronation," its author being Dr. P. E. Schramm, Professor of Modern and Medieval History in the University of Gottingen.

Messrs. Jonathan Cape will be shortly issuing "Sir Richard Grenville of the Revenge," by Mr. A. L. Rowse, Fellow of All Souls, Oxford.

The same firm are commemorating the award of the Nobel Prize for Literature to Mr. Eugene O'Neill by issuing a new edition of this author's complete works.

Round the Empire

NAZI PROPAGANDA

TEUTONIC and Nazi lack of humour must be responsible for the wording of the German Note of Protest to the Union Government over the latter's Proclamation forbidding non-British subjects in S.W. Africa to belong to public bodies and British subjects to take an oath of allegiance to the head of a foreign State. For how otherwise can one explain these references to League of Nations' Mandates and the horror expressed at the enactment of "a special law within general administrative regulations"? Has Hitlerite Germany suddenly become enamoured of a League which it has hitherto treated with the utmost contempt, and how, it may be asked, has it invariably dealt with elements in its own midst that it holds to be disloyal or dangerous to its own conceptions of duty to the Führer and the State?

As to the facts of the situation in South-West Africa, they have been abundantly made clear both by the report of the South-West Africa Commission a year ago and the messages received by the South African papers from their correspondents in the territory during the last few months. The Commission found that there had been considerable "dragooning into the Nazi complex." The schools had become "nurseries for the cultivation of Nazi recruits. Provocative processions were organised, the Union flag was hauled down from the Government buildings and the German flag substituted." Owing to the Union Government's disinclination to take vigorous action, conditions have steadily grown worse in the territory, and those Germans who have endeavoured to be true to the British and Union nationality they willingly accepted in 1924 have been subjected to every kind of Nazi pressure and intimidation. Obviously this state of affairs could not be allowed indefinitely to continue and the only wonder is that the Union Government waited so long before issuing their Proclamation. They might well be astonished at their moderation, but, though their action has been exceedingly tardy, one may hope that they have already taken the necessary steps to ensure that the Proclamation, unlike the Ordinance previously issued, is rigorously carried out and obeyed.

What has been happening in South-West Africa is also happening in another former German possession—Tanganyika. Here, too, there has been an intensive Nazi "drive," with the result that a large number of German residents who have no wish to be incorporated in the Third Reich have been packing up their belongings and contemplating a move to Kenya. There is not the slightest doubt that all this Nazi propaganda in Africa is intended to give support to the Hitler demand for the return of Germany's old colonies, and it does not require much imagination to suspect that the inspiration for all this sinister activity comes from certain quarters in Berlin. In any case it is high time that these perfervid Nazi enthusiasts were compelled to cease their terrorist campaigns

in territory that belongs, and one may hope will continue to belong, to the British Crown.

WHITE V. BLACK IN AFRICA

The South African Union's interest in Pan-African questions has already been demonstrated by the promotion of Pan-African Conferences dealing with matters such as transport and railway development, postal agreements and road construction. But that this interest is not confined to technical matters of this kind was shown by a recent broadcast address in Cape Town by Mr. O. Pirow, Union Minister of Railways and Defence. That address was a plea for "concord and co-operation in far-seeing measures" between Kenya, Uganda, Tanganyika and the two Rhodesias and the South African Union. The most important and most urgent problem to which this concord and co-operation should be applied was, he said, the native question, and he urged that the solution of this problem must, if white Africa was to survive, be along the lines of Union policy that laid down "most emphatically and once and for all that the native should obtain no social and political equality with the white man." It was true, he said, that some of the Governments of the African colonies favoured a doctrine of assimilation. But ultimately it would be for the white settlers and not the Governments and its officials to decide what the native policy should be. "For them whose whole future lies here and not overseas," he said, "it is irrefutable that political equality between white and black will lead inevitably to social equality, and the latter to the disappearance of the

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white population." Mr. Pirow went on to say that after the native question the most important problem common to African States was that of defence. Unless the possibility of an attack by an enemy from without on any one of these States became urgent it would not require much imagination to be able to say that if such attack was made, say, by an Asiatic power, it would hold out such dangers to the common ideal of white civilisation that the rest of the States would have to intervene.

CONDITIONS IN TRISTAN DA CUNHA

At regular intervals, since the first settlement on the island of Tristan da Cunha of Corporal Glass and two seamen, Cotton and Swain, in the first quarter of the nineteenth century, there have been scares as to the starving conditions of the inhabitants of this lonely island group in the Pacific. On more than one occasion arrangements have been made to transport these island dwellers to South Africa, but in every case there has been stout resistance on the part of the descendants of Glass, Cotton and Swain to the plans for their removal. The latest expedition to the island returned to the Cape last month, bringing back on board H.M.S. *Carlile* the Rev. H. Wilde, chaplain of Tristan da Cunha, who has just reached England with presents for Their Majesties the King and Queen from their subjects in the islands. These comprise a penguin tozzle mat for Her Majesty and a pull-over and a pair of socks for King George VI! The pull-over and socks were knitted from wool produced on Tristan da Cunha. The expedition found that the islanders (some 180 in all) were in no fear of starvation, that the rat bogey was non-existent, and that the islands were capable of supporting a far larger population than that now living on them. The Rev. Wilde describes the islanders as happy and law-abiding. They would, he says, be greatly handicapped in civilisation because they have no trade or profession and are totally unused to money.

AUSTRALIAN LABOUR PARTY

It is not many years since the Labour Party was a significant political force in Australia, strong in unity, honest in ideals, respected by its opponents. It bred such statesmen as Mr. W. M. Hughes and the late Andrew Fisher. It contributed to the Statute Book such measures as that which led to the foundation of the Commonwealth Bank. The unexcelled living and working conditions in Australia must be attributed in no small part to its influence. Consideration of this bright record makes the decay of the Labour Party the more regrettable. The decay began with the elevation to power of unpractical visionaries; it developed when the leadership in certain States was snatched by conscienceless opportunists. Now, cabled reports indicate that the process of disruption is nearing completion. In fact, an attempt by Mr. Curtin, leader of the Federal Labour Party, to "stop the rot" by paying a goodwill visit to the New South Wales Labour Party's conference seems likely only to hasten the approach of disintegration by still further antagonising moderate Labour supporters.

When Mr. Curtin gained the Federal leadership, the moderate elements hoped that the old ideals of the Party would be revived. Mr. Curtin had an admirable record in the Labour movement; he was demonstrably practical, hard-headed, far-seeing. Unfortunately, the forces with which he has had to contend have evidently proved too strong for him. Mr. J. T. Lang, the New South Wales leader, still has a huge following in his own State. Moreover, he has long been ambitious for Federal leadership, and he has no doubt decided that the most expeditious means of grasping it is to set the various units of the Party warring one against the other. It is deplorable that the Australian Labour Party should be lured into chaos to further the schemes of a man who has already caused grave injury to his country's credit abroad. It can only be hoped that Mr. Lang and his followers will overreach themselves and that, in the reaction, the moderate elements will assume control once more.

NEW ZEALAND AIR LINK

It is a matter for regret that a deadlock between Britain, New Zealand and Australia should be delaying the completion of the scheme for Imperial air development. British interests are naturally somewhat irritated by the seeming intractability of the New Zealand Government, abetted by Australia. At the same time, the opposition of the Dominions to certain aspects of the draft plan is not without logic. Briefly, the dispute concerns the authority which shall control the route across the Tasman Sea. Britain wishes Imperial Airways to have charge, while New Zealand and Australia insist that a local company shall be formed to manage and operate it. There, for the time, the disagreement rests, and there is no indication that it is likely to be settled before representatives of the three Governments meet for a round-table discussion, possibly at the Imperial Conference.

No one desires to see any delay in the fulfilment of a plan so strategically important to the Empire. However, it would not be just to dismiss the attitude of New Zealand and Australia as mere parochial obstructiveness. There is a feeling, rightly or wrongly, in the Dominions concerned that the service provided by Imperial Airways is not above reproach, especially on the score of punctuality. This cause of complaint has been largely eliminated since the new flying-boats were placed on the route, but the unfavourable impression made in earlier days still lingers. Added to this, business interests in New Zealand and Australia consider that they are entitled to full participation in the fruits of a venture which offers new opportunities for investment of capital. The delay is unfortunate. Among other things, it ensures that the Pan-American air service between New Zealand and the United States of America will now be in operation before the service between New Zealand and the United Kingdom. This will be a blow to Imperial prestige, if nothing more. The situation is undoubtedly capable of solution, but a spirit of calm reasonableness on each side is required. It is unthinkable that the Imperial Conference should be allowed to pass with the question still unanswered.

CANADA'S "MOUNTIES"

No force of comparable age has had a more distinguished or romantic history than the Royal Canadian Mounted Police. Its "beat" is so vast as to be largely unexplored; its functions are so varied than they range from those of magistrates and doctors to those of pioneers; its personnel has included cooks' sons and dukes' sons. There are stories without number of feats of individual daring and organised heroism in the annals of this amazing body of men. The further its ramifications stretch from the towns and cities, the more laborious and dangerous are its duties. Some of its men occupy the loneliest regular police stations in the world. They act as law-givers, doctors and general guides, philosophers and friends to the scattered communities they have to watch. They assist in the countering of privation and in easing the difficulties of life as well as preserving it by the more rigorous methods of summary jurisdiction. They will pursue a criminal for weeks and months over the most difficult country and through the most appalling weather in the world. They create everywhere a respect for law, for order, for justice.

When the old North-West Mounted Police was formed in 1873—largely in order to keep a watchful eye and a firm hand upon the cosmopolitan adventurers who rushed northwards at the call of gold—its strength was 150 men. To-day it includes 2,600 men, 220 civilians, 250 horses, 500 sleigh dogs, nearly 500 motor vehicles and over 100 vessels, while in addition aeroplanes are now in extensive use. The word "Mounted" has obviously acquired a new and more comprehensive significance. The enlistment requirements of the Force are the most rigid in the world. Yet never has it had better men or a better spirit than at the present time. In addition to its many activities as a police force it has borne a fair share of fighting. It took active part in the suppression of the Riel Rebellion, sent a considerable number of troops to the South African War, and in the Great War furnished two squadrons for service overseas—one in France and one in Siberia.

OPENING UP CANADA'S WASTES

The coming inauguration of the trans-Canada Airway will serve to underline more emphatically than ever before the remarkable work which Canada has already accomplished in the world of the air. Not the least remarkable of her aviation achievements has been the opening up of the North West Territories and the provision of quick and easy access to the vast mineral resources of those areas. Whole mills have been transplanted piece by piece and in many cases the semi-refined ore has been taken by air to the refineries further south. A new conception indeed of the North West Territories has resulted from this aerial exploitation and survey. Many geography text books will shortly have to be revised in the light of the new knowledge which has been acquired of these alleged barren lands. In the summer, owing to the longer days of sunlight, there is a large variety of wild

flowers and mosses—in contra-distinction to the impression that nothing exists there but dreary wastes of snow and ice. Even as far afield as the Arctic Circle certain types of grain and vegetables can be grown. Along the shore of the Great Bear Lake timber is cut for shoring up the tunnels in the mines. It was on these shores, too, that radium pitch blonde ore was discovered—ore which is now being won on a commercial scale sufficiently large to break the Belgian monopoly.

Other mineral resources are incalculable, and as the Governor-General, Lord Tweedsmuir, recently said, "Canada has only just begun to scrape the edges." The attention of the mineralogists was first attracted by the gold strike on the Klondyke River in 1896 and since then the Yukon alone has yielded gold to the value of more than £38,000,000. Prior to 1930 among the most important mineral developments were two oil wells on the Mackenzie River. Gold was, however, discovered at the mouth of the Yellowknife River in 1934, and in the following year a number of promising discoveries were made round the Great Slave Lake. Since the 17th century, too, the North West Territories have been one of the world's principal sources of fur. Since 1922 pelts from these areas have aggregated nearly £6,000,000 in value.

Much of this development has been due entirely to the air. By fitting skis in winter and floats in summer the machines are to a large extent independent of climatic conditions on the ground.

THE TELEPHONE IN CANADA

Canada has been counting her telephones and finds that only four countries in the world have a larger number—a remarkable record seeing that the population of the Dominion is less than 11,000,000. Those who excel her are the United States, Germany, the U.K. and France. Canada's total is 1,208,815. The achievement is the more appropriate in that it was in Canada that the human voice was first transmitted. The feat was performed over sixty years ago by Dr. Alexander Graham Bell from his father's house at Brantwood, Ontario. Not content with counting the installations, Canada has enumerated the conversations and finds that they total something like 2,303,000,000, or roughly 1,096 calls per telephone, or 211 calls *per capita*.

WHAT CANADA SPENDS ABROAD

With the question of visitors from overseas so much the topic of the moment, it is interesting to note that tourists from abroad spent roughly £50,000,000 in Canada last year. But it is not all a question of immigration so far as Canadian holiday-making is concerned. The people of the Dominion are themselves great travellers, and nearly 34,000 of them spent roughly £4,000,000 in Britain and Europe last year. Canadians visiting the United States by car spent over £8,500,000; those utilising the railway and steamer spent nearly £5,000,000, and those travelling by ferry and aeroplane spent £1,600,000—a grand total of over £15,000,000.

Letters to the Editor

NATIONAL DEFENCE

Sir,—Apart from the actual work that could be done by private Associations for National Defence, the principle itself is a good one so as to relieve the Government from the strain and perhaps even the odium of enrolling citizens for National Defence in time of peace so as to be ready for war if necessary.

Local authorities might also undertake such duties on which the right of self-government may depend, so that it might be only fair to disfranchise all such constituencies that had failed to enrol a percentage of their population for Service.

JOHN BURTON.

Newtown Park, Co. Dublin.

MOTORISTS AND CYCLISTS

[From Sir Harold Bowden]

Sir,—It has been reported in the Press that the Motor Agents' Association, at a recent Council meeting, agreed to ask for the registration and taxation of cyclists and compulsory rear lamps. At a time when all road users are composing their differences, such an attitude on the part of an organisation which has quite enough problems of its own to solve gives an impression of direct antagonism.

Cycle designers and users already take every pre-

caution to ensure that their machines are safe to handle and easily seen after dark. Even if this were not necessary in sheer self-defence against reckless motorists, adequate laws exist to enforce it.

As to the suggestion that cyclists should be taxed, since the only practical purpose this could serve would be to increase the funds of the Exchequer, the demand comes ironically from a body like the M.A.A., whose interests are assailed on every quarter by taxation. If this motion represents the real views of the 15,000 motor traders of Great Britain, it would be interesting to know their motive.

HAROLD BOWDEN.

*Chairman, the Raleigh Cycle Co., Ltd.,
Nottingham.*

OUR FOOD SUPPLIES

Sir,—Is it not high time that the Food (Defence Plans) Department of the Board of Trade gave the public precise information as to the steps that are being taken to ensure a more adequate reserve of food supplies than appears to exist at the moment?

From details set out in the daily Press it would seem that the supplies of imported wheat in our ports at any given moment are just sufficient to cover the population's requirements for eleven days. As we get three-quarters of our wheat from abroad, the holding up of these supplies for any length of time—through an aerial blockade or other war disaster—would mean veritable starvation for the poorer sections of our population.

That, of course, is only one aspect of the food supply problem. There are many other items in our daily food menu that could be equally affected by war conditions—unless the authorities take proper steps to ensure a continuous and adequate reserve against emergency and also afford more encouragement to home agriculture.

THOMAS B. HOPKINS.

Queen's Road, Bayswater.

Sir,—Could not the danger of starvation in wartime be largely averted if we were to prohibit the import of flour and insist on grinding in this country all the wheat that we use for food which arrives at our shores from Dominions and foreign countries? No political capital could be made out of this, to the effect that this was an attempt to keep out the food of the people for the benefit of the farming industry at home, for the same amount of wheat would come in. The only people to complain would be the overseas millers.

The result of this prohibition of the import of flour would be that the mills of this country would be glutted with "offals," which would have to be sold cheap or burnt; the feeding of cattle and stock would be cheapened; and if the "offals" were not allowed to be exported an immense amount of cheap food could be manufactured.

Again, as regards transit by sea, flour contaminated by sea water is useless, whereas grain damaged in this way can, I think, still be used in the manufacture of alcohol. Ships can be loaded more quickly with grain than flour bags, thus less harbour dues would be paid, and in the case of Canada the grain could be exported more quickly

THE NATIONAL Review

VOL. 108. No. 650

April, 1937

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before the "freeze up" than the flour. There is also, of course, the question of the extra employment given here.

GEORGE B. H. WHEELER.

Carlton Club, Pall Mall, S.W.1.

RABBITS AND GIN TRAPS

Sir,—With reference to the findings of the Select Committee on Agriculture (Damage by Rabbits), may I suggest that there is a danger that two quite separate ideas may be confused.

Even if the Select Committee are right in considering that the gin-trap may sometimes be necessary in self-defence, that provides no proof, or even suggestion, that there is any justification for the present practice of torturing an animal for three, six or twelve hours or more with an instrument worthy of the Spanish Inquisition, in order to sell his little pain-racked body for a few pence.

It should hardly need a Select Committee to convince us that the marketing of rabbits which have been cruelly mutilated by the gin-trap ought to be prohibited by law.

FOUGASSE
(Kenneth Bird).

30, Esmond Court,
Kensington-square, W.8.

OUR CLERGY

Sir,—I am afraid that there is some truth in Lord Milne's assertion that many of our clergy to-day are "effeminate." I am a squarson's daughter, whose father preached that one should fear God, honour the King, and fight for one's country, and who died beloved and respected by his parishioners.

My grandfather was a country rector, and on the Sunday when he took up his duty he was informed that the village bully was shouting obscene remarks outside the churchyard. Whereupon, my grandfather, in his surplice, went out, collared the offender, and placed him in the old stocks in the churchyard, where he remained till service was over.

From that day the man became a regular attendant at church, for, with all his faults, he could recognise courage.

When our Clergy speak of "Apostolic succession," they might remember that in the past all the Bishops were militants, and led their men into battle, so if the former would realise that they are men as well as priests, it is possible we might hear less about "empty churches."

SQUARSON'S DAUGHTER.

OPTIMISTIC ASTROLOGERS

Sir,—Perhaps you may be interested to know that astrologers have lately been making a deep study of the astral conditions which are likely to influence the future of the British Empire. I have studied this subject closely, have marked the clash of personalities and the conflicting elements in the various countries and, by mathematical calculation, it is possible to say that this Empire of ours, far from breaking up, will grow in strength. Further, the signs are that there will be no Great War although there may be small wars.

R. LANCELOT.

39, Half Moon street, London, W.

Your Investments

STOCK MARKETS AND THE BUDGET

THE country's financial year has closed with an apparent deficit of £5,597,000, a not unsatisfactory result having regard to the heavy increase in expenditure and to the fact that £13,127,000 has been provided for debt redemption. The latter charge is a definite one and there is, therefore, no justification for assuming that the year has actually closed with a surplus. What now remains to be seen is the method which the Chancellor will adopt for raising the necessary additional revenue. An increase in the standard rate of income-tax is taken as a foregone conclusion, but whether any kind of Excess Profits Duty will be levied, in view of the lack of success of the last experiment in this

COMPANY MEETING

VICKERS LIMITED

THE annual general meeting of Vickers Ltd. was held on the 2nd instant in London.

Gen. the Hon. Sir Herbert Lawrence, G.C.B. (chairman), who presided, in the course of his remarks said: The accounts show that the net profits for the past year were £1,162,610, an increase of £284,505 compared with those for 1935.

After the transfer of £250,000 to reserve, your directors recommend the payment of a dividend of 10 per cent. on the Ordinary stock.

Under the profits guarantee policy taken out by Vickers-Armstrongs, that company was, until 1947, under obligation in any year when its profits exceeded £900,000, to pay a percentage of the surplus over that figure to the insurance company. The first percentage payment was due in respect of the year 1935. In 1936 negotiations for cancellation were opened. These were completed on terms satisfactory to your company, and you will notice that in the accounts of Vickers-Armstrongs part of the final payment has been charged against the profits of that company. The balance of the payment has been written off in the accounts of your company against provision for contingencies.

Having referred in detail to the various subsidiary companies he continued:

The extensions to plant which are being carried out by certain of the subsidiary companies are not yet completed and the results of the past year do not appreciably reflect the increased armament production, the effect of which should begin to be realised during this year. As the Government demands increase, the capacity for carrying our foreign armament and home and foreign commercial work must be affected. It is to be remembered that sooner or later the present exceptional demand for armaments will diminish and the Vickers Group must then be faced with a position similar to that which developed after the Great War. In the meantime, every effort is being made by the operating companies in the difficult circumstances with which they are faced, to retain their goodwill and connections both with the foreign market for armaments and consumers of their commercial products at home and abroad. It is also to be borne in mind that during this present exceptional period it is necessary and prudent that full provision for depreciation of obsolescence of plant and reserves should be made. With expanding business, total profits should increase, but if the provisions to which I have referred are made, your board point out that such increased total profits will not of necessity mean larger divisible profits.

The report and accounts were adopted and the dividend recommendation was approved.

direction, depends presumably on the concoction of a suitable formula. There are also various fears regarding increases of indirect taxation on such articles as tobacco, beer, petrol, motor-cars, and these are necessarily calculated to restrict business in the Stock Markets until after the Budget secrets are known.

It has to be remembered that for months past there has been a "bull" account in almost every section of the Stock Markets and considering the vast profits which have been taken by those who could ill afford to wait and see, markets have stood up to the situation very well. Similarly, commodities have also been subject to profit-taking, but there seems no reason to see any fundamental change in the inflationary position which must in the long run lead to higher prices always providing there is no actual outburst of international strife, which has been threatening for so long that operators have come to ignore it a great deal more than they should do.

GILT-EDGED AND INDUSTRIALS

The Budget would seem likely to be framed at any rate with a view to maintaining prices of British Government stocks so far as is possible at the expense of Industrial stocks and shares but if natural forces are too strong for artificial control, as they must prove to be in the long run, then some gradual decline in gilt-edged stocks is to be looked for, though there is no reason to fear anything of an unpleasantly spectacular nature. In the meantime the best-class industrial stocks may at first be affected by dearer money influences but the excellent results now being published by the leading companies should prove an incentive to investors not to liquidate industrial holdings. The yield on War Loan at its present price is £3 9s. per cent. or about £3 7s. 6d. allowing for redemption, while that on Imperial Chemical ordinary amounts to well over 4 per cent. and Dunlops yield nearly 5 per cent. The margin between gilt-edged and such industrials as these is a reasonable erring in favour on the side of gilt-edged, if anything, so that on income grounds there seems no reason to sell industrials.

DUNLOPS AND CHEMICALS

The results published last week by Imperial Chemical Industries and by the Dunlop Rubber Company were most encouraging to those whose faith in the big British industrials is based on something more than mere speculation. Imperial Chemical profits last year were a record for the combine, for net profits amounted to £7,203,329 compared with £6,706,539 for 1935 and the dividend is again 8 per cent. for the year, the extra profits going into general reserve which received £1,500,000 compared with £1,000,000 in the previous year. Dunlop net profits increased in 1936 from £1,288,244 to £1,502,707 and while transfers

to reserves are increased from £100,000 to £250,000, the directors are still enabled to pay a bonus of 1 per cent. this year or 9 per cent. in all, against 8 per cent. for 1935. In the past Dunlops and Chemicals have made a favourite comparison but the two are now on a different yield basis and, it would appear, rightly so. I.C.I. can almost claim to be a public utility share and vast sums are likely to be provided to smooth out dividend fluctuations. Dunlops, on the other hand, are subject to the violent ups and downs of the rubber and Industrial markets, but on their present yield they look quite attractive at 36s. x.d.

MINING FINANCE PROFITS

The leading mining finance companies of the Rand are showing results for 1936 which justify the fullest confidence in their future. General Mining and Finance, for instance, earned 43 per cent. on the issued capital but the dividend is 25 per cent., £200,000 being placed to reserve. Anglo-American Corporation increased its profit from £819,823 to £1,161,638 and though the dividend is increased from 20 to 30 per cent., reserve is increased to £3,000,000. When the 10s. shares were 30s. they were strongly recommended in these columns; at nearly £5 they appear to have discounted to a large extent even the great possibilities of their diamond and mining interests. Rand Mines profits increased from £900,499 to £962,162 and the dividend is 160 per cent. for the year against 155 per cent. Large profits from investment sales have also been used to strengthen investment reserve. Union Corporation made profits of £685,044 against £604,920 and the dividend of 68 per cent. is thoroughly justified. The 12s. 6d. shares stand at 9½ x.d. give the fairly reasonable yield of over 4½ per cent. on the last dividend.

THE "JOHNIES" GROUP

In the Johannesburg Consolidated Investment group, Government Gold Mining Areas milled the larger tonnage of 2,568,000 but the grade was lowered and profits came out at £529,674 below those of the previous year, dividends being 110 per cent. for the year, against 120 per cent. Ore reserves amount to over 11,000,000 tons, averaging 6.5 dwts. over 58 ins. Randfontein Estates increased the tonnage milled by 285,000 to 4,612,000 tons and profit increased by £207,885, dividends being 25 per cent., against 20 per cent. Ore reserves, however, declined on the year by 838,000 tons the value being less by 0.3 dwt., the decline being due to abnormal faulting in some of the higher-grade areas and to a falling-off in the grade of some of the reserves included in the 1935 calculation. Van Ryn Deep, owing to the 1935 additions to plant, crushed 124,000 tons more than in 1935 but profits were slightly lower and dividends totalled 25 per cent., against 30 per cent.

NORTH BRITISH & MERCANTILE
INSURANCE Co., Ltd. Total Assets £53,202,250 Total Income exceeds £10,300,690
LONDON : 61, Threadneedle Street, E.C.2 EDINBURGH : 64, Princes Street

VAN RYN DEEP, LIMITED.

(Incorporated in the Union of South Africa).

Issued Capital: £1,196,892 in Shares of £1 each.

DIRECTORATE:

J. H. CROSBY (Chairman),
 J. B. JOEL, J.P., Sir REGINALD A. BLANKENBERG, K.B.E.,
 Dr. J. G. LAWN, C.B.E., Sir WILLIAM DALRYMPLE, K.B.E.,
 SIR ABE BAILEY, Bart., G. J. JOEL, M.C., G. H. BEATTY.

Extracted from the Annual Report to 31st December, 1936

Tons crushed, 1,250,000, yielding 239,305.624 fine ounces of gold.

	Per ton, based on tonnage crushed
Total Working Revenue	£1 6 11
Total Working Costs	17 11
Working Profit	9 0
Rents, Interest and Sundry Revenue	5,735 14 5
Balance at 31st December, 1935, brought forward	59,527 6 4
	2626,565 16 2
This amount has been dealt with as follows:—	
Taxation—Union and Provincial (Estimated amount for 1936 less adjustment for 1935 £4,550 9 2)	211,515 17 10
Royalty on Ore	2,381 9 4
Miners' Phthisis Sanatoria, Donations and Depreciation	1,406 4 10
Contribution in respect of Outstanding Liabilities, Miners' Phthisis Compensation Fund	67 13 2
Capital Expenditure	4,781 18 5
Dividends Nos. 46 and 47 of 12½% each	299,223 0 0
	519,376 3 7
Leaving a Balance carried forward of	£107,189 12 7

The payable Ore Reserves at the end of the year were estimated at 3,430,000 tons of an average value of 3.8 dwts. over a stoping width of 50 inches. The estimate of ore reserves is based on gold at 140s. per fine ounce and current working costs.

The full Reports and Accounts may be obtained from the London Agents, Johannesburg Consolidated Investment Company, Limited, 10/11, Austin Friars, London, E.C.2.

GOVERNMENT GOLD MINING AREAS (MODDERFONTEIN) CONSOLIDATED, Ltd.

(Incorporated in the Union of South Africa).

Issued Capital: £1,400,000 in 5,600,000 Shares of 5s.

DIRECTORATE:

J. B. JOEL, J.P. (Chairman),
 J. H. CROSBY (Deputy-Chairman), Sir REGINALD A. BLANKENBERG, K.B.E.,
 DR. J. G. LAWN, C.B.E., G. IMROTH, D. CHRISTOPHERSON, C.B.E.,
 G. J. JOEL, M.C.

Extracted from the Annual Report to 31st December, 1936

	Per ton, based on tonnage crushed
Tons crushed, 2,568,000, yielding 797,833.540 fine ounces of gold.	
Total Working Revenue	£2 3 8
Total Working Costs	17 8
Working Profit	£1 6 0
Rents, Interest and Sundry Revenue	19,945 10 2
Balance at 31st December, 1935, brought forward	192,840 15 4
This amount has been dealt with as follows:—	
Government's Share of Profits (Estimated amount 1936: £1,925,284 10 10; Adjustment 1935 £3,431 18 1)	1,928,716 8 11
Taxation—Union and Provincial	3,444 8 6
Miners' Phthisis Sanatoria, Donations and Depreciation	2,844 4 1
Contribution in respect of Outstanding Liabilities, Miners' Phthisis Compensation Fund	11,377 3 1
Capital Expenditure	34,482 2 1
Dividends Nos. 38 and 39 of 55% each	1,540,000 0 0
	3,520,864 6 8
Leaving a Balance carried forward of	£35,493 10 1

The payable Ore Reserves at the end of the year were estimated at 11,024,000 tons of an average value of 6.5 dwts. over a stoping width of 50 inches. The estimate of ore reserves is based on gold at 140s. per fine ounce and current working costs.

The full Reports and Accounts may be obtained from the London Agents, Johannesburg Consolidated Investment Company, Limited, 10/11, Austin Friars, London, E.C.2.

SCHOLARSHIPS

NEWTON COLLEGE, NEWTON ABBOT, DEVON. — Scholarship Examination in July. A limited number of Bursaries awarded on recommendation of Preparatory Schoolmaster for entry May or September.—Apply Headmaster.

POCKLINGTON SCHOOL, YORK. — Six Entrance Scholarships of £40 are offered in June. The School fees are £78 15s. per annum. Junior Hostel for boys under 13. Apply Headmaster, P. C. SANDS, M.A., late Fellow of St. John's College, Cambridge.

SHERBORNE SCHOOL. — ENTRANCE SCHOLARSHIPS. About TWELVE SCHOLARSHIPS and EXHIBITIONS of a value of from £100 to £30 per annum to be OFFERED as a result of the Examination to be held at Sherborne School on June 1st, 2nd and 3rd, 1937, including special Exhibitions for the sons of Clergy and sons of Barristers. For full particulars apply to the Headmaster, Sherborne School, Sherborne, Dorset.

ST. COLUMBA'S COLLEGE. — ENTRANCE SCHOLARSHIP EXAMINATIONS, 1937. The Entrance Scholarship Examinations will be held on 15th, 16th and 17th June, 1937. The Scholarships are one each of £50, £30, £25 and £15 per annum, tenable for four years. The major Scholarship may not be awarded if candidates do not show sufficient merit. The candidates should be under fourteen years of age on 1st June, 1937, but the Warden will not necessarily adhere rigidly to this limit; and may, should he think fit, consider for award a boy who may be slightly over age, but whose papers show exceptional merit. Candidates may, in certain circumstances, be required to attend a *viva voce* examination at St. Columba's College. The papers may be taken at the candidate's present School. For further particulars and previous papers apply to the Warden, St. Columba's College, Rathfarnham, Co. Dublin.

WELLINGTON SCHOOL, SOMERSET. — Entrance Scholarships annually in June. Bursaries offered. See Public School Year Book. Apply Bursar.

ST. LEONARD'S SCHOOL, ST. ANDREWS, FIFE. — THREE ENTRANCE SCHOLARSHIPS are offered (£30, £20, £10), tenable for four years, for girls under 15 on September 30th, 1937. Examination will be held May 19th, 20th and 21st.—For particulars apply to the Head Mistress before May 1st.

HOTELS

BAMBURGH, NORTHUMBERLAND. — Victoria Hotel. Rec., 8; Pens., 6 gns. Tennis, golf, shooting, fishing.

BEKHILL-ON-SEA. — Clevedon Guest House, Magdalen Road. Tel. 2086. Nicely situated, with garden, near sea and shops. Good cooking. Assured quiet and comfort. From 3 guineas. Special Winter terms.

BRIGHTON (HOVE). — NEW IMPERIAL HOTEL, First Avenue. Overlooking sea and lawns. Comfortable residential hotel. LIFT. Central Heating, etc. Vita Sun Lounge. From 4 guineas. Special residential terms.

BUDE, N. Cornwall. — The Balconies Private Hotel. Downs view.—Pens., 4 gns. each per week, full board. Golf, boating, fishing, bathing, tennis.

CALLENDER, Perthshire. — Trossachs Hotel, Trossachs. Bed., 60/- Pens., from 5 gns. Lun., 3/6; Din., 6/- Golf, fishing, tennis.

DUNDEE. — The Royal British Hotel is the best. H. & C. in all bedrooms. Restaurant, managed by Prop. Phone: 5059.

ELY, Cambs. — The Lamb Hotel. Bed., 20/- Rec., 5. Pens., 5 gns. W.E., 2/- 15/- Lun., 3/6; Din., 5/- Boating.

FOLKESTONE. — THE ORANGE HOUSE Private Hotel, 8 Castle Hill Avenue; 3 mins. to Sea and Leas Cliff Hall. Excellent table. "Not large but everything of the best"—34 gns. Winter, 2 gns.—Prop., Miss Sykes of the Olio Cookery Book.

HASTINGS. — Albany Hotel. Best position on the front. 120 rooms. Telephone: 761, 762.

LONDON. — Shaftesbury Hotel, Gt. St. Andrew Street, W.C.2; 2 mins. Leicester Sq. Tube. 250 bedrooms, H. & C. Water. Room, bath, breakfast, 7/6; double, 13/6.

ARLINGTON HOUSE Hotel. — 1-3, Lexington Gardens, Cromwell Road, W.S. Rec., 4; Bed., 35. Pens., from 2/- to 5 gns.

BONNINGTON HOTEL. — Southampton Row, W.C.1, near British Museum. 260 Rooms. Room, Bath and Table d'Hôte Breakfast, 9/6.

CORA HOTEL. — Upper Woburn Place, W.C.1. Near Euston and King's Cross Stations. Accom. 230 Guests; Room, Bath and Table d'Hôte breakfast, from 8/6.

PAIGNTON, DEVON. — Radcliffe Hotel Marine Drive. Bed., 70; Rec., 3; Pens., from 4 gns., from 5 to 7 gns. during season. W.E., 15/- to 18/- per day. Golf, tennis.

PERTH, Scotland. — Station Hotel. Bed., 100; Rec., 4; Pens., from 4 gns.; W.E., from 24/-; Lun., 3/6; Tea, 1/6; Din., 6/- Garden.

RYDE, I.O.W. — Royal Squadron Hotel. Bed., 20; Rec., 2. Pens., from 3 gns. 1 minute from Pier. Golf, tennis, bowls and bathing. Cocktail bar. Fully licensed.

SALISBURY, Wilts. — Cathedral Hotel. Up-to-date. H. & C. and radiators in bedrooms. Electric lift. Phone: 399.

SIDMOUTH. — Belmont Hotel, Sea Front. Bed., 55; Rec., 3. Pens., 6/- to 8 gns. W.E., inclusive 3 days. Bathing, tennis, golf.

STAMPS

RARE STAMPS. For best prices send to R. Harmer Rocke's Strand Auctions, 2, Arundel Street. Sales Weekly.

PERSONAL

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WHORTLEBURY, BLACK CHERRY and MORELLO CHERRY (Stoneless) JAMS; Pineapple, Blackcurrant, Damson, Peach and many other delicious Home-Made Jams, Jellies and Marmalades; beautifully packed SIX 1-lb. pots, 7/-; 12 for 13/-; 24 for 23/6, all carriage paid. Hilda Kimberley, Gunnislake, Cornwall.

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